

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OPR-02 SY-04 AID-20 OMB-01 PC-10 SCCT-02

NIC-01 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 USSS-00 CU-04

EB-11 SIL-01 LAB-06 COME-00 DRC-01 IO-14 /179 W

----- 039195

R 150855Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8179

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PK

SUBJ: PARTIAL OBSERVANCE OF ANTI-AHMADIYA HARTAL IN
KARACHI

REF: A. KARACHI 1248

B. ISLAMABAD 5734

1. MANY SHOPS AND BAZAARS IN KARACHI REMAINED CLOSED
ON JUNE 14 FOLLOWING CALL BY OPPOSITION AND RELIGIOUS
PARTIES FOR NATIONWIDE STRIKE TO SUPPORT DEMAND THAT
AHMADIYAS BE OFFICIALLY DECLARED A NON-MUSLIM MINORITY
COMMUNITY AND THEREBY INSURE THEIR EXCLUSION FROM
IMPORTANT PUBLIC OFFICE.

2. ALTHOUGH SHOPS GENERALLY CLOSED, PERHAPS FROM FEAR
OF DAMAGE AS MUCH AS FROM SYMPATHY WITH AIMS OF THOSE
CALLING FOR STRIKE, AND STREET TRAFFIC LIGHTER THAN NORMAL
WITH MANY BUSES OFF ROADS, NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS OF
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VIOLENCE WERE REPORTED ANYWHERE IN CITY. CONGENOFF AND

STAFF WHO TOURED MANY PARTS OF CITY FOUND ALL RELATIVELY PEACEFUL WITH ONLY SOME GLASS ON STREETS IN TRADITIONALLY RIOTOUS LIAQUATABAD TO INDICATE SOME STONING OF VEHICLES EARLIER IN DAY. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS WERE MOVING UNIMPEDED THROUGHOUT CITY, AND THERE WAS LITTLE IF ANY FEELING OF TENSION.

3. LACK OF VIOLENCE PROBABLY ACCOUNTED FOR BY CALMING EFFECT OF

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH YESTERDAY (SEE REF. B) WHICH WELL RECEIVED HERE AMONG ALL CLASSES AND BY NATURE OF STRIKE CALL ITSELF. (RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAD REQUESTED THAT HARTAL BE PEACEFUL.)

4. FURTHER IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO ABSENCE OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS WAS HEAVY PRESENCE OF POLICE IN ALL PARTS CITY. POLICE WIDELY OBSERVED PATROLLING STREETS IN TRUCKS. OTHER POLICE UNITS POSTED AT STREET CORNERS AND ELSEWHERE THROUGHOUT CITY. ALSO CONSIDERABLE NUMBER ARMY UNITS HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO CITY AND HELD IN RESERVE. ARMS UNITS OF AT LEAST COMPANY STRENGTH OBSERVED AT TWO COLLEGES NEAR CITY CENTER, AND AT THIRD COLLEGE ON DRIGH ROAD, BY CONGENOFF.

5. AS OF MORNING JUNE 15 SHOPS ALL OPEN AND CITY NORMAL.

BRYANT

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Message Attributes

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